Amendments to the Claims:

The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing:

1-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method for the preparation of a composition consisting of a semi interpenetrating network, wherein the semi interpenetrating network comprises at least one crosslinked water soluble derivative of a basic polysaccharide which has primary and/or secondary amine groups, and a non crosslinked component which comprises at least one anionic polysaccharide, wherein the anionic polysaccharide resides within the semi interpenetrating polymer network, wherein the method comprises:

crosslinking at least one water soluble derivative of a basic polysaccharide containing primary and/or secondary amine groups, in the presence of at least one anionic polysaccharide, under conditions which avoid protonation of said primary or secondary amine groups and which also avoid reaction of hydroxyl groups or any other functional group on the anionic polysaccharide

wherein the crosslinking reaction is performed at a pH from about 7 to about 8.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The [[A]] method of claim [[8]] 7 wherein the crosslinking reaction is carried out at a pH of about 7.

10-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 wherein the water soluble basic polysaccharide is a derivative of chitosan.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the derivative of chitosan is selected from the group consisting of deacetylated chitin, re-acetylated chitosan, partially N-acetylated chitosan, N-carboxyl methyl chitosan, O-carboxyl methyl chitosan and O-hydroxy ethyl chitosan.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16 wherein the partially N-acetylated chitosan has a degree of acetylation from about 45% to about 55%.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the non-crosslinked component is hyaluronic acid.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the composition further comprises one of the other anionic polysaccharide components of the extracellular matrix.